TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

A News Letter

Published by the

INSTITUTE OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERS

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Edited by the Library Committee W. GRAHAM COLE, *Chairman*

Vol. I May 1933 No. I

OUR TRAFFIC DIGEST AND NEWS LETTER

Just two years ago, the Institute, through the Library Committee, started to issue a monthly Traffic Digest containing reviews of current articles of interest to traffic engineers. This Digest is distributed to members of the Institute, and is being sold to libraries and other non-members. In order to present it in a more condensed and attractive manner the May 1933 issue, which is Volume IV, Number I, has been prepared in booklet form.

Coincident with this change, it has been decided to publish in similar form a monthly News Letter to our members. Both the Digest and the News Letter will be prepared by the Library Committee. This Committee will welcome, at any time, suggestions from members regarding the form and contents of these two publications in order that they may more closely meet the needs of our members. The Committee also requests that members submit material for inclusion in the News Letter.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting is less than five months off! It will be held in Chicago during the first week of October. A number of very interesting special features are being planned. Vice President McIntyre, in charge of the Committee on Program, is determined that this annual meeting shall far outstrip former ones. Better start planning on ways and means to be on hand!

In addition to our own sessions, there will be, during the same week, interesting sessions of the National Safety Congress. Furthermore, there is an additional "Once-A-Century" opportunity in Chicago this year. Surely, you will want to see the Century of Progress Exposition with its many interesting and scientific exhibits and other "live" dramatized attractions. The railroads are offering special fare inducements. Hard as times are, you should not miss these attractions.

INFORMAL GROUP MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY

The four sub-committee chairmen of the national Joint Committee on Signs, Markings, Signals and Islands, are members of the Institute. They met in New York on April 26th, with Mr. E. W. James, Chairman, to consider a tentative draft of the new manual.

The occasion was used for calling an informal meeting of Institute members, in and near New York, who could attend. Professor Vollmer of California, Mr. Rosenwald of Minnesota, and several other out-of-town members happened to be in New York. A pleasant dinner was had at the City Club during which Professor Vollmer entertained by telling of some police experiences.

A lively informal discussion followed, in which numerous Institute matters were considered; including - suggestions for improvements in the Traffic Digest; discussion of the national Inter City Safety Contest; the out-letting of more papers through the Institute; the idea of holding more informal meetings in different parts of the country; the annual meeting; Institute membership; "Telling the world" about the value of traffic engineering; Institute traffic researches, etc.

FINANCE AND AUDITING COMMITTEE

This new committee has the following membership:

Chairman - Ralph W. Eaton, Traffic Engineer, Providence, Rhode Island
W. Graham Cole, Director of Safety, Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., New York, N. Y.
Ernest P. Goodrich, Consulting Engineer, New York, N. Y.
L. E. Peabody, Engineer, Alexandria, Virginia
Lloyd P. Rader, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sidney J. Williams, Director Public Safety, National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois

It has two types of duties:-

1 - Auditing the Institute books and recommending improvements in record-keeping and financial operation.

2 - Consideration of the broad problem of adequate financing of the Institute.

In connection with its second purpose, this committee will work closely with the very important new Committee on Policy now being organized.

COMMITTEE ON TERMINOLOGY AND NOMENCLATURE
T. M. Matson, Chairman, Acting Traffic Engineer,
537 City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Continuing the statements from Committee Chairmen indicating what their committees will do this year, Mr. Matson states:-

"The work of the Committee is proceeding nicely. Already some 200 to 300 terms have been collected and approximately one-fourth of these have been defined by other groups".

"The Committee is planning to submit at the next meeting of the Institute, a rather complete list of terms that are peculiar to our work, together with tentative definitions. Of course, there will be many new terms to be added and some may be deleted for the final code which will be accepted by the Institute".

Already a specific opportunity for this Committee has arisen. A number of definitions will be required in the new manual on Signs, Markings, Signals and Islands being developed by the Joint Committee. Mr. Matson's Committee is helping to prepare the best possible definitions.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS
Maxwell Halsey, Chairman, Traffic Engineer,
National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters,
One Park Avenue, New York City

Mr. Halsey's Committee is conducting the Traffic Control and Facilitation Section in the American City magazine. Some improvements have already been put into effect and others of importance are contemplated.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS
Howard F. Ilgner, Chairman, Superintendent and Chief Engineer
Bureau of Electrical Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"The Committee on Standards and Specifications is collecting data on traffic signal design to see if it is possible to standardize the design of traffic signals or any features thereof. If standardization is impractical at the present time, it is hoped that such data and opinions may form the basis of study and research which may lead ultimately to standardization."

"This is a new committee and a new activity, and much preliminary work is necessary before actual results can be obtained. Rather than trying to compile a comprehensive code in the limited time, efforts will be concentrated on the traffic signal, to make as much progress on this item as possible."

COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Major John P. Hallihan, Chairman, Chief Engineer,
Rapid Transit Commission, Water Board Bldg., Detroit, Michigan

Major Hallihan writes that his Committee's work this year will be confined to a few main subjects. Those under consideration are:-

1 - Fundamental rights to use and occupany of city streets.

2 - Ordinances and regulations in various cities governing the movement of traffic on streets occupied by public transportation facilities.

3 - Study of different types of street intersections.

IMPROVEMENT IN ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE

The New York City Police in 1931, secured a state law amendment making it possible for a patrolman serving a summons to swear to the complaint and fill out all necessary court forms at the end of his tour of duty. Accordingly, it is not necessary for him to go to court except in contested cases, which, in 1931, represented only about 4% of all cases.

TIMING ISOLATED TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

How do you time an isolated signal? Have you set down your method in writing? If not, are you willing to do so? Each member is requested to submit to the Secretary before June 1st, a brief statement indicating the method he uses. A study will be made of the methods submitted. A statement will then be prepared, setting forth the method or methods considered to be the simplest and best. The desired "end product" is a brief description of a method which may be issued by the Institute to those who would be interested. Your cooperation is requested.

"MEASURING STICKS" OF PROGRESS

It is hoped that many members are working on the "measuring stick" idea expressed in the April 15th Letter. By the way, we are going to want all available information of this sort within the next two months. The reason relates to the annual meeting. Further explanations will be made soon.

CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS

Please check the mailing address used in sending you this copy of "Traffic Engineering". If it is not correct in any particular, please advise Secretary Simpson, on or before June 1st. At that time, a corrected list of members their titles, and addresses, will be prepared and copies sent to all members.

r
of

o

or

s

d,
t
a
be

ur-
,
hin

y
la